

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02942 031015Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----009095 031228Z /53

R 030910Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0619

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2942

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MARR, SN, RP
SUBJECT: A-4 TRAINING FOR SINGAPORE AIR FORCE IN PHILIPPINES

REF: CINCPAC 291533Z JUL 78

1. WE FULLY APPRECIATE AND SHARE CINCPAC CONCERN THAT NOTHING BE DONE IN ARRANGING FOR SINGAPORE A-4 TRAINING IN PHILIPPINES THAT WOULD IN ANY WAY ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S.-PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS.
2. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, RECENTLY COME ACROSS INFORMATION FROM VERY SENSITIVE SOURCE WHICH INDICATES THAT SINGAPORE AND PHILIPPINES HAVE EXCHANGED MESSAGES ON SUBJECT OF A-4 TRAINING AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL, TOUCHING SPECIFICALLY ON RELATIONSHIP TO U.S. BASE RIGHTS. SINGAPOREANS, ACCORDING TO THIS INFO, INDICATED THAT THEY DID NOT EXPECT TO BE GIVEN RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY USG IN PHILIPPINES AND THAT THEY DID NOT EXPECT SINGAPORE-PHILIPPINE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE OF SAME NATURE AS THOSE IN EFFECT BETWEEN U.S. AND PHILIPPINES. PHILIPPINES, IN RESPONSE, INDICATED THAT THIS WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING AS WELL.
3. FOREGOING SUGGESTS ASPECT OF A-4 TRAINING ISSUE THAT WE MAY NOT HAVE GIVEN ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION,

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FACT THAT PHILIPPINES AND SINGAPORE ARE ASEAN PARTNERS. PHILIPPINES, CONSEQUENTLY, MUST BE UNDER SOME FEELING OF OBLIGATION NOT TO BLOCK SINGAPORE A-4 TRAINING AND, CONVERSELY, SHOULD FEEL SIMILAR INHIBITION AGAINST EXPLOITING SINGAPORE'S NEED FOR TRAINING IN OREFB SCORE POINTS AGAINST U.S. SINGAPORE-PHILIPPINE CORRESPONDENCE MENTIONED ABOVE SUGGESTS

THAT THIS CONSIDERATION IS, IN FACT, PRESENT.
INGRAHAM

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NNN

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